

Heuchera grossulariifolia* Rydb. var. *tenuifolia
(Wheelock) C.L. Hitchc.
gooseberry-leaved alumroot
Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G4T3T4S3

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): Caudex thick, branched, the flowering stems leafless, up to 32 inches tall, glandular-puberulent throughout to glandular-hirsute above, but sometimes eglandular or even glabrous near the base. Leaves glabrous to glandular-puberulent, the blades cordate-orbicular to cordate reniform, $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, always slightly to considerably shorter as measured from the open to rather narrow sinus, 5 to 7 lobed for $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ the length, the lobes sometimes overlapping, coarsely 2-3 times crenate-dentate, the margins usually coarsely ciliate-cuspidate. Inflorescence $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and generally tightly congested at anthesis, in fruit usually open and 2 to 5 inches long, the branches ascending, up to $\frac{2}{3}$ inch long, 2 to 6 flowered. Calyx $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long at anthesis, oblique, one side considerably longer than the other, tubular-campanulate, the basal adnate portion about equal to the shorter side of the scarcely flared hypanthium, lobes oblong to oval, erect, equaling or somewhat longer than the hypanthium. Petals white, usually shorter than the sepals, narrowly clawed and with an oblanceolate to spatulate blade. Stamens shorter than the sepals, ovary about $\frac{3}{4}$ inferior at anthesis, tapered above to stout hollow beaks and very short thick styles not over $\frac{1}{16}$ inch long. Stigmas enlarged, capitate but with a slight lobing. Capsules $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Seeds $<\frac{1}{16}$ inch long, dark brown, ovoid-ellipsoid, closely covered with short conical spines.

Identification Tips: *Heuchera grossulariifolia* var. *tenuifolia* appears to intergrade with *H. grossulariifolia* var. *grossulariifolia*. *H. grossulariifolia* var. *tenuifolia* is generally larger than var. *grossulariifolia* in all aspects (except the petals).

Phenology: Flowers May through early August.

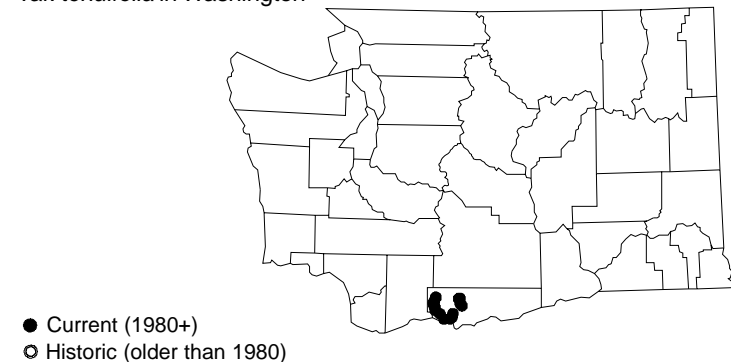
Range: The taxon occurs in the Columbia River Gorge in Klickitat County and adjacent Oregon; also the Payette and Salmon River drainages in Idaho. In Washington, the taxon occurs in the transition zone between the Western Cascades and Eastern Cascades physiographic provinces.

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Known distribution of
Heuchera grossulariifolia
var. *tenuifolia* in Washington



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Habitat: Basalt cliffs and steep slopes where moist. Elevations in Washington range from 100 to 1500 feet. Associated species include *Acer glabrum*, *Pinus ponderosa*, *Quercus garryana*, *Lonicera ciliosa*, *Penstemon rupicola*, *Corylus cornuta*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Sedum spathulifolium*, *Symphoricarpos albus*, and *Prunus emarginata*.

Ecology: This taxon occurs in rocky, well-drained habitats. The sites are often along intermittent and/or perennial stream channels. The microsites generally receive a fair amount of sunlight.

State Status Comments: The small number of known occurrences and the low number of known individuals are the primary factors contributing to the species' status.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed in Klickitat County. All known occurrences should be revisited.

Threats and Management Concerns: Herbicide applications, road maintenance, recreation, residential development, and timber harvesting are all threats to the species.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.